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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1915.

Kultur's Official Approval

SINCE the Germans first devastated Bel-
gium, the word "kultur" has become, in
the abstract, a synonym for frightfulness.
Now, however, an institution of learning,
charged with the spread of kultur in the
specific sense, has stamped with its solemn
academic approval the blackest individual act
that German authority has committed. The
University of Muenster has conferred the
degree of doctor of laws—irony of irony—on
General von Bissing, the executioner of Edith
Cavell.

Is the Colonel still for the Fall Coffee
Pot?—New York Sun. Was he ever still
for anything?

Fair Warning to Italy

THAT sturdy old warrior, Field Marshal
von Hindenburg, declares "this war must
not end without three principal sinners—
Great Britain, Italy and Serbia—receiving
just punishment." This statement ought to
inspire large enthusiasm in Italy, which never
has declared war against Germany, and until
very lately seemed determined to conduct
hostilities strictly on its own account and
with the attainment of a favorable separate
peace with Austria-Hungary as its principal,
if not its sole, objective.

Rome has waked now from that peculiarly
iridescent dream, to find that Italian desti-
nies are involved inextricably with those of
Italy's allies. Von Hindenburg's amiable
threats should quicken understanding.

From the way in which presidential
aspirants are slaying at the Nebraska primary
petition law one is almost persuaded that
that State is on the pivotal list.

Let Them Go Without Reasons

WHETHER or not the administration com-
plies with Germany's request for a bill
of particulars setting out the reasons that
moved it to ask for the recall of Boy-Ed and
Von Papen is a matter of choice, and the
choice is with the administration, not with
Germany.

Secretary Lansing could, if he pleased,
supply Wilhelmstrasse with a lengthy docu-
ment of the "jargon" type. Germany cer-
tainly would reply at equal or greater length,
and the country would waste through another
unpleasant interchange of diplomatic phrases.
But the Secretary of State is not obligated,
by international law or the customs of diplomacy,
to assign any reason at all.

If there is any law in which the "whim
doctrine" prevails without opportunity for
argument, it occurs when one government
decides whether it likes or dislikes the rep-
resentative of another. Secretary Lansing
will greatly strengthen his hold on the people and
their confidence if he exercises that whim
without a word of explanation.

If China adopts American boots, it will
probably drift to our style of silk hats and
swallowtail coats. Then the question of a
monarchy in the land of the Dragon will be
settled.

The One Best Seller

NOVELS are not going well these days.
Sales are so small that most of our well-
known writers are taking interest in other
things. Some of them are aviators, others
have taken to the stage, and still others are
assailing the recesses of serious literature.
The public no longer hangs breathless on the
adventures of Beth in a runaway automobile
or reads with delight the cynical conversation
of the two wise heroes of Robert W. Cham-
bers.

The public actually seems to be turning
back to the Bible. It was to be expected,
of course, that the war would stimulate Bible
reading in European countries, for even the
hardest of souls have a passing moment
of seriousness in the face of highly probable
and very immediate death, but the fact is
that American Bible-reading is at a high level
as well. The average sale of Bibles at present
is 40,000 copies. American Bibles by the
thousand are sold in Asia, Africa, Australia
and South America. The Book of Books is
good reading when the world is tumbling
down about us.

Vic Mardock was arrested in London and
spoken as follows: "The United States is
unpleasantly in need of preparedness." And
speaking of V. M. reminds us that, on the
other hand, there are some other things the
United States is not in need of and should
parallel.

Protecting Marriage

UNDOUBTEDLY there should be legisla-
tion punishing with greater severity the
commission of perjury and other frauds in
obtaining marriage licenses. The marriage
license is, or should be, the State's certificate
that the persons therein named are competent
logically to assume the duties and responsibil-
ities of the marital relation. That the
licensee's recital of facts be accurate is of
high public consequence.

One way to lessen the divorce evil is to
make it more difficult for the thoughtless to

wed. It is not necessary to accept the whole
creed of the eugenists to believe fervently
that the union of the unfit should be dis-
couraged in all feasible and proper ways.
Surely, the law should not tempt immaturity
to assume obligations beyond its capacity to
endure. Surely, also, there should be ade-
quate punishment for those who thoughtlessly
or deliberately set aside the wise safeguards
the law has erected.

Boys and girls get married sometimes with
about as little consideration as is devoted to
the purchase of half a pound of tea. Some
of these unions are successful, it is true, but
most are foredoomed to failure. Instead of
the marriage being a community asset, as it
should be, it becomes a community liability.
Its goal is the divorce court, with unhappi-
ness, suffering, police court bickerings and
defective children scattered along the way.

The current month will have a number of
musical incidents for the almanac-makers of
the New York World, Brooklyn Eagle and
Tribune and the Chicago News. For instance:
Two German officials found guilty and sen-
tenced to a Federal prison. Recall of Boy-Ed
and Von Papen. Sailing of the Ford Ark.
Congress and the President's marriage. Then,
of course, Christmas.

"America for Americans"

ONE high purpose, at once ideal and in-
spiration, animates President Wilson's
first address to the Sixty-fourth Congress.
"All America for Americans and all Ameri-
cans for America," perhaps expresses it. He
declares for partnership with the enlightened
and progressive nations of the South in up-
holding the Monroe Doctrine; for larger pre-
paredness on our own part to make effective
our championship of this and the other essen-
tials of free institutions on this hemisphere;
for more unsparring scorn and ostracism for
those who have sought, or may hereafter
seek, to pour "the poison of disloyalty into
the arteries of our national life."

On this platform every patriotic citizen can
stand. It is no narrow or hidebound Ameri-
canism, mark you, for which the President
pleads. It has no limit of race or creed. It
erects no gate that men born under foreign
flags, but with the spirit of America in their
hearts, may not pass. Its anathemas are re-
served for those who "turn in malign reaction
against the government and people who had
welcomed and nurtured them and seek to
make this proud country once more a hothed
of European passion" and for those native to
the soil who yet "have so forgotten them-
selves and their honor as citizens as to put
their passionate sympathy with one or the
other side in the great European conflict
above their regard for the peace and dignity
of the United States."

True Americanism, as the President has
pointed out on an earlier occasion, is a matter
rather of the spirit than of nativity. It
appeals to all those who see in this country's
history and tradition an unyielding protest
against every form of tyranny and the great-
est experiment in free government the world
has known. That spirit has found some of
its finest expression in the speech of foreign-
born citizens and some of its most notable
exemplifications in their lives. To all who
believe in her principles and would share her
aspirations, America holds out her arms, but
the time has come when her hospitable shores
no longer may be utilized to shelter con-
spiracies against her happiness and her peace.

To this policy, to which restraint lends an
added emphasis, everything else in the Presi-
dent's address is subsidiary. There must be
fuller and franker understanding with the
nations of South America, to the end that
they may take up their share of the burden
of preserving their independence. The young
men of this country must give part of their
youth to the country's service, and the em-
ployers of these young men must facilitate
and lessen the sacrifice. All of us must bear,
in increased burdens of taxation, our share
of the cost of preparedness against attack.
Our merchant marine must be re-established,
that our peaceful commerce may rest no
longer at the mercy of foreign jealousies or
foreign passions. Our industrial establish-
ments, our great railroads and factories, our
wealth of mine and farm, must be surveyed,
so that in the hour of national peril they also
may be mobilized in the national defense.

How war changes customs, even laws!
Here is Sir John Simon, Home Secretary for
Great Britain, reading the riot act to the
London Times, intimating that if Lord North-
cliffe does not stop criticizing the govern-
ment, the Times may be suppressed. Some
years ago the Times might almost have
threatened to suppress the government.

Antispeed Ordinance

SO many modifications and amendments are
necessary before the antispeed ordinance
of the city can be made practically effective
that it is to be hoped the Ordinance Com-
mittee, to which the question again has been
referred, will devote sufficient time and atten-
tion to its study.

As pointed out by The Times-Dispatch,
the ordinance recently offered was altogether
inadequate to meet conditions; in fact, even
casual study of its provisions speedily forced
a reductio ad absurdum. After all, Council
need only supply a plan that will compel the
infliction of a punishment that will fit the
offense, instead of the present method of
assessing the maximum fine for every trifling
violation, to insure a sane and reasonable
enforcement of laws enacted for the safety of
the public.

After such an ordinance has been framed
and put into effect, Council may be induced
to understand the necessity for an ordinance
that will secure the public, as far as possible,
from the danger of totally inexperienced auto-
mobile operators.

The Socialists in the Reichstag will be
given permission to start the peace ball
toward the goal to-morrow. The German
press will be allowed to throw the reins over
the dashboard and say what it pleases on the
question of a cessation of hostilities, and the
Kaiser himself may turn down the dove from
a prayer rug in Constantinople. These are
some of the promises for the remainder of the
week. It will be an awful slam on the cap-
tain and the crew of the Ark if they arrive
too late for the dance.

Mr. Taft admits that he doesn't know any-
thing about politics. He didn't know any-
thing about the Philippines, either, until he
collided with Secretary of War Garrison.

If the Virginia type of civility prevails in
Washington there will be no half-pulling or
gouging or football tactics in Congress until
after the Mayflower trade moon is over.

The squirrel is the mascot of the Great 11.
How comes it that this little nut-taster has
shoved the dove of peace off its perch?

TO HARRY OSBORN.

To you who met misfortune with a smile
And jested bravely at the world's despoil,
Who bore a heavy burden all the while
As guerdon rare, rich talents to requile:
Who faced with valiant and unflinching eye,
With cheek unblanched and with unflinching
breath,
That Reaper grim, who passes life's tares by
And binds the wheat into the sheaf of death,
There was no terror hid in mortals' end
To blot with fear or gloom your spirit's
light—
You loved the day, but yet you did not bend
Or cringe, when neared the dark, encircling
night.
God give you rest, too sweet for earthly ken,
And place among His gallant gentlemen!
EDWIN RYALS.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Quite Au Fait.
Say what you will of Constantine,
Who rules the Greeks to-day,
At being neutral you've not seen
One who can match his play—
In his eye there is nothing green,
Who lose to him must pay.

The gum dealer on a Main Street corner is
a philanthropist. Hear his slogan, "Here's your
sweet chewing-gum, 3 cents for a grab of six
slabs; buy with a sore finger two grabs."

The Psalmist Says:

If all the folks who are committed to doing
their Christmas shopping early would also do
their Christmas talking early—and be done with
it—the average quality of holiday conversation
would be much improved.

"Nobody Home" in Two Acts.

Act I.—Opportunity knocks. "Who's that?"
asked the wife of her husband.
"Nobody. Maybe a beggar. Let him knock.
Nobody home," replied the laggard husband.
Twenty years have elapsed.
Act II.—"What's that noise?" asked the old man
of his old wife.
The noise is revealed. "There it is again. Go
to the window and see what it is," said the old
husband.
Wife goes to window and peers through the
tattered curtains. Comes back. "It is the wolf,"
she says. "It won't go, as did the other visitor
we turned away."

"Your friend Grubbs is a standing candidate
for alderman, isn't he?"
"Yes, and that's the reason why he'll never
get there."

According to Shakspeare.

"Do you know Ringbang?" asked my friend.
I said I had a theatrical acquaintance with him,
meaning that I always saw him at a playhouse.
"He's a rising young man," said my friend.
"Yes," I replied with that rising inflection
which is an equivalent of "show me."
"Yes," echoed my friend. "The never fails to
rise when the orchestra plays 'The Star-Spangled
Banner.'"

It has been said by some blessed optimist:
"The blue of the sky is larger than the cloud."

Prodigal Son (1915) and Father (1890).

The old man was one who never relented.
When his son ran away the father kept up his
rage during the boy's absence. The father went
from bad to worse in every way. He became
a beggar. He drifted with the tide. He made
no effort to revive a tender recollection. After
many years the boy came back. He had made
good and had money. He went to the old home
and knocked.

"Who's that?" growled the old man from
between the covers.
"Your son. I've come back, dad, and have
oodles of cash," said the returned.
"Shove your money under the door and come
round in the morning," roared the old man.

Something Just as Good.

"Did Edith get her M. A. at college?"
"No; but she got her M. A. N. there. She
married one of the college professors."—Boston
Transcript.

Japan has its Mikado. This country has its
McAdoo. Then there is Henry Ford, the much
ad about nothing.

A Minute With the Cop.

"Did you ever hear of 'Casey at the Bat'?"
"The Casey I know is always on a bat. Move
along now, and look out for that car."

As the Guide Sees It Now.

The Guide of Capitol Square was throwing
peanuts to the squirrels when Newcomer found
him yesterday.
"How long have you been married?" inquired
Newcomer.

There's something that I don't want to re-
member," was the reply.
"What was your wife's maiden name?"
"Helen Winter. Say, that makes me think
it's the same all the year round."

A Christmas Blessing.

"Christmas comes but once a year!"
As all of us well know.
And clerks in Christmas shops appear
Much pleased that this is so.

Chats With Virginia Editors

The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch sighs as follows:
"This is the last Christmas that Tom and Jerry
will appear at the Virginia hotels."

Paradoxical, but true, is the following obser-
vation of the Sandy Valley News: "A farm ten
miles from town on a hard road is nearer than
a farm five miles from town on a soft road."

The Roanoke Times, probably speaking from
its own absolute knowledge, says: "A man with
six children at home is never perturbed on the
witness stand when subjected to a grueling
cross-examination."

"Andrew Carnegie gave out a message on
Thanksgiving Day to the effect that the world
is getting better. But he didn't tell us since
when," asks the Staunton News. "Since yester-
day. The world is getting better every day."

The Bristol Herald-Courier, having taken a
census of this season's accidents in the field,
colloquially declares: "No person should be per-
mitted to go into the fields with a shotgun until
he learns the difference between a man and a
rabbit."

"What a tremendous disappointment it would
be to many newspapers in America," says the
Roanoke World-News. "To learn that Henry
Ford's mission had achieved results." It has
already done so; for instance, it has run a New
York man crazy.

"We have said so many things about Rich-
mond," remarks the Chase City Progress, "and
the other papers have said so many things about
Richmond that one might be led to believe that
Richmond is really a bad town, but it ain't."

Richmond is the best town we know of—by that
name." Richmond, like some other towns we
wot of, likes free advertising. Keep it up.

"We venture the assertion," says the Lynch-
burg News, "that, per capita, more water is used
in Lynchburg than in any other city," and this
causes the Newport News Press to draw an
unfavorable impression as follows: "Now who
says that Lynchburg is not the wettest city in
the State?"

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From Newspaper Files, December 8, 1865.)

The Richmond Dispatch, which was burned
over by the evacuation fire, will make its re-
appearance to-morrow morning. The new firm,
under whose management the paper will be
published is styled Cowardin & Ellyson, com-
posed of James A. Cowardin and Henry K. El-
lyson. They have delayed bringing the paper
out until their expensive outfit of type,
presses, etc., was well in place and in work-
ing order. The equipment is said to be the
latest thing in the newspaper printing line,
and everything is indeed brand-new.

As had been already predicted, the difficulty
which recently occurred in the congregation
of the First African Baptist Church, of this
city, in consequence of the great fondness of
the "female sisters" for their recently imported
Boston preacher, Rev. Clement Bowler, has re-
sulted in a big split in the church. Yesterday
a deed was signed, showing the sale to the se-
ceders of the Duval Street Presbyterian
Church, in which they will hereafter hold regu-
lar service.

The New York Herald says the opening pro-
ceedings of the two houses of Congress fore-
shadow the practical reduction of the exclud-
ed Southern States to the status of territories con-
quered from a foreign enemy and still in a
state of revolt.

The highest price yet reported for pork this
hog-killing time is from Danville, where it
sold yesterday at 18 cents per pound.

The post-office at Boykins, in Southampton
County, has been reopened, with Miss Sarah A.
Beaton as postmistress.

Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, who was elected to
Congress from the Staunton district, did not
remain in Washington very many hours be-
fore he found out, so he thinks, that he stands
no more chance of getting the seat than he
he was elected than does a Hottentot that
might have applied for admission to Congress.
He has returned to his home, in Staunton, in
a state of disgust, and is reported to have said
that he hardly expects to live long enough to
see another Virginian holding a seat in the
United States Congress.

Rev. George W. Pannill, of Henry County,
committed suicide a few days ago by shoot-
ing himself in the mouth. He had brooded over
the thought of getting out of the war, etc., until his
mind became unbalanced.

The Town Council of Fredericksburg proposes
to tax the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Po-
tomac Railroad so much a head for all the pas-
sengers it carries through the town.

A soldier of the Twentieth Maine Regiment
who was mustered out of the service soon after
the close of the war settled in North Carolina.
He passed through Norfolk day before yester-
day on his way to Washington to intercede for
Jefferson Davis. Ten years or more ago Mr.
Davis was traveling in New England and
stopped at the house of the father of this sol-
dier. The father was decidedly treated. While
the young soldier was in the Union army, about
1862, he was captured near Richmond and was
later condemned to death as a spy. He asked
the privilege of communicating with Mr. Davis,
then the President of the Confederacy, and as
such through the chief of his armies. He was
allowed to write to Mr. Davis and read the
message by a special messenger. What he
wrote may be easily guessed. In an hour Mr.
Davis had an order issued for his release from
the death cell. In a short while thereafter
the Maine soldier was exchanged. No wonder,
he is now in Washington interceding for Mr.
Davis.

The Voice of the People

Daughter Expresses Gratitude.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—As one of the audience at the Bijo
m-thee Thursday, December 2, I wish to thank
"Duke" for the part he played in the play re-
ceived from the Confederate play. "The Edward"
the coward that turns out to be a hero.
As I watched the young soldiers in gray
marching through the streets with banners fly-
ing on their way to the front, the girls waving
their handkerchiefs in farewell, I vividly re-
called a day when I had seen a dear brother
march through the streets of Richmond on his
way to battle. With many others, I stood on
the sidewalk and waved a good-bye with a full
heart and with emotions of joy and pride.
I always enjoy hearing the war songs of our
valiant sons, "Dixie" and "The Bonnie Blue Flag."
We should have had "My Maryland," so popular
in the sixties as most of our most glorious songs.
It is not so often heard now as it should be
outside of Maryland.
The veterans, and all of us, I am sure, appre-
ciate the efforts of the entertainer, and these
are a few words of gratitude.
DAUGHTER OF THE CONFEDERACY
Richmond, December 4, 1915.

Current Editorial Comment

Compliment Paid Underwood. It is a high and deserved com-
pliment the Senate caucus has
paid Underwood, of Alabama, in breaking
precedent and making a place
for him on the Finance Committee, which is
the Senate equivalent of the House Ways and
Means Committee. There was no vacancy in
the committee, and the caucus solved the prob-
lem by creating an additional membership. Mr.
Underwood's fine record in handling tariff mat-
ters made it desirable to have him on the Sen-
ate Finance Committee. The caucus paid Mr.
Underwood the compliment of making a place
time strengthened the Finance Committee. It
was a good action, and will be applauded gen-
erally.—Mobile Register.

The bitter cry against the cen-
sorship heard from the front
that neither regiments nor indi-
viduals are permitted to gain any
recognition or publicity for un-
usual exploits. This is one of
the handicaps democracy meets in trying to
conduct war on the most modern lines as seen
in the Russian-Japanese War the strictest cen-
sorship was exercised by the Japanese. War
correspondents were refused admission to the
battle front. Only such news as the Japanese
saw fit to give out could be wired to the English
press. The Japanese rules were strict. The
censorship was the severest known in any recent
war. The good old days when the war cor-
respondent could send out what he wanted to
is a thing of the past.—Memphis Commercial-
Appeal.

The high cost of living is hav-
ing a serious effect upon the
American consuls abroad. We see
that there is a strong tendency
among the consuls to make repre-
sentatives of Uncle Sam to ask
for an increase in pay. It costs more to live in
warlike Europe than it did when the countries
over there were at peace. The State Department
has been asked by several of these repre-
sentatives to make the pay envelope a bit
heavier. The first complaints were received
from the consuls in Germany and Austria.
Thereafter, consuls in France, England, Russia
and the Balkan states appealed for increases.
As a result the State Department will ask Con-
gress for a special fund for increasing the
salaries of the consuls during the war. The
consuls-general at Paris and London receive
\$12,000. Twelve consuls-general at the prin-
cipal cities of Europe, Asia and America receive
\$8,000. The third class, consisting of
four consuls-general, receive \$6,000. Most con-
suls receive \$2,000, \$2,500, \$3,000 and \$3,500. The
sums named do not go very far in providing
consuls with the luxuries of life, even
when there is no war, and when the cost of
the necessities is high. The consuls are asked
the cannons, and the price of food and
other things advance. It is almost impossible
to make both ends meet.—Savannah Press.

Waiting



Harry Osborn, cartoonist for The Times-Dispatch, died at his father's
home in Darlington, S.C., on Monday. The cartoon reproduced above, as
a characteristic example of his work, appeared in The Times-Dispatch on
May 15, just following the dispatch to Germany of the first American note
based on the Lusitania atrocity. The drawing has new significance to-day.

WANTS EQUALIZATION IN TAXATION

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—The State Legislature has
created a State Board of Taxation, sup-
plemented by local boards, the pre-
sumed primary object of these boards
being to "equalize" taxation. If this
is not the object there is no excuse for
their existence, and all other work
they perform has previously been very
well done by circuit clerks, courts and
grand juries.

In the year they have been in work
these boards have probably found
the taxes on personal property
and in incomes to pay their own
expenses, but it is frankly admitted
that they have accomplished nothing
at all toward "equalization." This
board was to do what the courts
and the commissioners' books, and in a
large county this takes two weeks or
more. As they are prohibited from be-
ing in session more than thirty days
in the State where has judgment been
days, for all other work required, it
is not equalizing, and the result is
nothing accomplished.

In other words, the Legislature has
created an office which the public
thinks it is to do what the courts
and the commissioners' books, and in a
large county this takes two weeks or
more. As they are prohibited from be-
ing in session more than thirty days
in the State where has judgment been
days, for all other work required, it
is not equalizing, and the result is
nothing accomplished.

Very few persons in Virginia know
what their neighbors pay toward the
support of the government. The rec-
ords are public, it is true, and they
can know if they wish, but not one in
thousand ever has ever will take the
trouble to go to the clerk's office to find
out such matters. Publication of
real estate assessments where all could
see them would be a great benefit to
the volunteer board of equalization,
whose work would be thorough and
complete. There would be equaliza-
tion of assessments or the citizens of
the community would know the reason
why. The cost of such publication
would probably not be 10 per cent of
the increase in volume of taxes it
would bring forth.

I have made these two suggestions,
not particularly because I think they
would be a panacea for all the ills of
taxation, but they would help toward
equalization, and may start a line of
thought that will bring tangible re-
sults.

That something is needed is forcibly
demonstrated by the fact that if in-
vestigation is made of the thousands
of transfers of real estate in Virginia
during the past year, it will be found
that the total amount of assessment
of all the property transferred will
not equal 50 per cent of the total
amount of the purchase money paid.

Bedford, Va., December 4, 1915.
W. W. RICHARDSON.

GREAT HIGHWAY TO PROTECT NATION

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—I offer a little suggestion on
preparedness. And my plan is this:
For the sake of places of beginning,
will say start at the northeast corner
of Maine with a good national high-
way, say for a distance of 100 miles
wide to be built of the most durable
material obtainable at reasonable
prices. This road should follow the
coast line all the way around the
United States, except the northern line,
which would be built near enough the coast
so that an army of any desired mag-
n